

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~28,
wherein said object is a lesion of an internal tissue, ~~typically a cartilage tissue of an~~
~~articulation.~~

Claim 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~28,
wherein said screen has a color substantially contrasting with the object to be evaluated
geometrically.

5. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument according to Claim 4, wherein
said screen has a dark grey or black color.

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument according to Claim ~~[[6]]~~28,
further comprising a level at the proximal end of said shank, and arranged and
constructed such that movement of the lever slides the shank, wherein said surgical
~~instrument comprises a trigger and wherein the shank is adapted to be moved from a~~
~~position where the screen is retracted inside the barrel into a position where the screen~~
~~is unfolded in the vicinity of the object to be evaluated by means of said trigger situated~~
~~at the proximal end.~~

Claim 10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument according to Claim ~~[[10]]~~28, ~~further comprising, wherein said recall system comprises a wire connected to the~~
~~screen and to the handle, said wire being slidable inside an axial cavity of [[a]]the~~
~~shank, said wire being constructed and arranged such that the screen is retracted in the~~
~~shank when the wire is moved proximally.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~28,
wherein said handle is scissors type handle.

13. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~28,
wherein said instrument is at least partially made with polymer material.

14. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method for performing the geometrical
evaluation of an object inside a body, the method comprising the steps of associating
the reference device of the surgical instrument of claim ~~[[1]]~~28 with the object to be
evaluated, acquiring at least one image of the object associated with the reference
device and processing said at least one image in order to acquire said evaluation.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said object is a
lesion of an internal tissue.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said step of
associating a reference device with the object to be evaluated comprises the step of
associating the screen with the object.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the step of
associating a referenced device with the object comprises introducing said reference

device inside an arthroscopy guide in the folded-up condition, unfolding the reference device in the vicinity of the object and extracting it, again in the folded-up condition, through said guide.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according Claim 14, wherein the step of acquiring at least one image of the object associated with the reference device comprises illuminating the surgical site, acquiring at least one image of the object when associated with the reference device comprises illuminating the surgical site, acquiring at least one image of the object when associated with the reference device and displaying said at least one image on an arthroscopic monitor.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 14, wherein the step of processing the images comprises using morphometric processing techniques.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said method is performed entirely by a machine.

21. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method shaping a cartilage tissue prepared in a laboratory from primary or stem cells comprising performing the method of geometrical evaluation of an object inside a body of claim 14 and shaping said cartilage tissue

~~The method according to 14, further comprising shaping a cartilage tissue, prepared in a laboratory from primary or stem cells,~~ on the basis of the form and estimated extent of the cartilage lesion.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 21, wherein said step of shaping the cartilage tissue is performed using laser cutting instruments.

23. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument according to claim ~~[[1]]~~28, wherein said screen, when in said unfolded state, has a circular shape.

24. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument according to claim ~~[[6]]~~28, wherein said screen, when in said unfolded state, is larger than a diameter of said guide barrel.

Claim 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument according to claim 11, wherein said wire is connected to the center of said screen.

27. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument according to claim ~~[[1]]~~28, wherein said screen has square shaped meshes of a size from 0.5 mm to 1.5 mm.

28. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument for geometrical evaluation of an object inside a body of a human being or animal, the instrument comprising a handle, a guide barrel, a reference device and a slidable shank to means for bring[[ing]] said reference device into the vicinity of said object and retracting said reference device to aid in removal of said reference device from said body,

wherein said instrument is adapted to co-operate with an image acquisition device for acquiring at least one image of said reference device when it is in the vicinity of said object,

wherein said reference device comprises a screen,

wherein said screen can be brought from a first fold up state to an unfolded state and to a second fold up state, wherein said unfolded state is the state when said screen is in the vicinity of said object and said at least one image is being acquired and wherein

said second fold up state is the state when said screen is retracted to and in removal from said body~~recalled~~

wherein said screen, when in said unfolded state, is larger than a diameter of said guide barrel,

wherein the slidable shank is slidable~~said surgical instrument comprises a guide barrel and a shank sliding inside~~ said guide barrel, the guide barrel being insertable to be inserted inside the body and having a proximal end in the vicinity of the handle and an opposite distal end which is open,

wherein the shank has a head-piece with retractable support arms having a pivot, and wherein said screen is connected to said support arms at a position distal to said pivot, such that said screen is retractable into said shank, and the portion of said support arms proximal to the pivot are under radial compression such that said support arms pivot as said shank is moved distally to unfold said screen.